

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 18, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. No claims have been amended, and therefore, the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-20 are pending and are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Brehmer* (US 5,893,028). The Office Action took the position that *Brehmer* teaches, shows, or suggests each and every limitation recited in claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20. More particularly, the Office Action took the position that the cited reference teaches each element recited in the rejected claims, including the resistor elements positioned between the power supply and the first side of the switching pair. Although the Office Action acknowledges that *Brehmer* does not teach resistors in this position, the Office Action concluded that one of ordinary skill in the art would have easily known to replace the diode-connected transistors taught in *Brehmer* with the resistors taught in the present application. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that each of claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 recite subject matter that is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by *Brehmer*.

Applicant's independent claim 1, the independent claim from which claims 2-7 depend, recites a signal strength indicator circuit that includes a signal input for receiving an input signal, a set of rectifiers including an asymmetric switching pair of rectifiers for providing an output signal that is inversely proportional to the input signal, wherein a

first side of the asymmetric switching pair is operably connected to a power supply through a resistor, and a signal output for outputting the output signal.

Applicant's independent claim 8, the independent claim from which claims 9-15 depend, recites a method of processing a signal received by a signal strength indicator circuit. The method includes receiving an input signal, rectifying the input signal through a set of rectifiers that includes an asymmetric switching pair of rectifiers to generate an output signal that is inversely proportional to the input signal, stabilizing the output signal by operably connecting a first side of the asymmetric switching pair to a power supply through a resistor, and outputting the output signal.

Applicant's independent claim 16, the independent claim from which claims 17-20 depend, recites a signal strength indicator circuit. The circuit includes a receiving means for receiving an input signal, a rectifying means for providing an output signal that is inversely proportional to the input signal, the rectifying means including an asymmetric switching pair of rectifiers operably connected on a first side thereof to a power supply through a resistor, and an outputting means for outputting the output signal.

However, Applicant submits that each of claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 recite subject matter that is not taught, shown, or otherwise suggested by *Brehmer*. More particularly, *Brehmer* teaches an intermediate frequency gain and rectifying stage employed within an intermediate frequency system, such as the system illustrated in Figure 6 of *Brehmer*. The intermediate frequency gain and rectifying stage includes an amplifier section and a rectifying current mirroring section. In this implementation,

amplifier section includes a high-swing folded-cascode amplifier structure formed by transistors (MP1-MP4 and MN1 and MN2), and a constant current sink 112. The high-swing folded-cascode structure is terminated into two current mirrors that form respective loads. The current mirror generates a first mirrored signal I_p' which has a magnitude proportional to (or identical to) the current I_p through the first leg of the gain stage. Similarly, current mirror generates a second mirrored signal I_m' which has a magnitude proportional to (or identical to) the signal I_m through the second leg of the gain-stage. The mirrored signals I_p' and I_m' are provided to rectifying current mirroring section.

More particularly, although *Brehmer* teaches that the first and second side of the asymmetric switching pair is operably connected to a power supply, *Brehmer* does not teach that this connection is made through a resistor, as recited in claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20. Rather, as acknowledged by the Office Action, *Brehmer* teaches that the connection is made through diode-connected transistors, which are not equivalent in structure, configuration, or operation to the resistors recited in Applicant's claims. As such, Applicant submits that *Brehmer* fails to teach, show, or suggest each and every limitation recited in claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20 is respectfully requested.

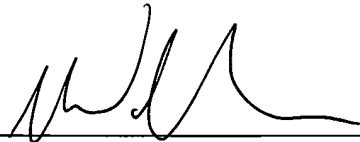
Further, Applicant strongly traverses that the Office Action's position that one of ordinary skill in the art would know to substitute the diode-connected transistors in place

of the resistors recited in the circuit of Applicant's claims. Applicant submits that one of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that a diode-connected transistor could not be substituted for the resistor positioned between the power supply and the first side of the asymmetric switching pair of Applicant's claimed circuit without changing the output or operational characteristics of the asymmetric switching pair. Therefore, Applicant submits *Brehmer* fails to teach, show, or even suggest each and every limitation recited in claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 20, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Alexander Nolte', written over a horizontal line.

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